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Agency of Transportation

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Bulletin 14-03

2014 LEGISLATIVE LAW CHANGES

Act No. 189 is recently passed legislation relating to miscellaneous amendments to laws related to motor vehicles. The following provisions are of interest to Licensed Inspection Stations:

*Vehicles Eligible to Display Vanity and Low Number Plates * * **

Vanity plates may now be issued to trucks over 26,001 pounds unless the vehicle is registered under the International Registration Plan.

A person holding a reserved registration number on a pleasure car, a truck that is registered at the pleasure car rate or a motorcycle may be issued the same reserved registration number for the other authorized vehicle types, provided that the person receives no more than one such plate or set of plates for each authorized vehicle type.

*Registration Validation Stickers; Proof of Temporary Registration * * **

When a registration for a motor vehicle, snowmobile, motorboat, or all-terrain vehicle is processed electronically, a receipt shall be available electronically and for printing. An electronic or printed receipt shall serve as a temporary registration.

*Manner of Display * * **

A registration validation sticker shall be unobstructed, and shall be affixed as follows:

For vehicles issued registration plates with dimensions of approximately 12 × 6 inches, in the lower right corner of the rear registration plate; and for vehicles issued a registration plate with a dimension of approximately 7 × 4 inches, in the upper right corner of the rear registration plate.

A person shall not operate a motor vehicle unless number plates and a validation sticker are displayed as provided in this section.

*Proof of Financial Responsibility * * **

A person may prove financial responsibility using a portable electronic device.

*Vermont Strong Plates * * **

An approved Vermont Strong commemorative plate may be displayed on a motor vehicle until June 30, 2016. The regular front registration plate shall not be removed. The regular rear registration plate shall be in place and clearly visible at all times.

Autocycles * * *

The definition of motorcycle has been changed as follows to include an “Autocycle”:
Motorcycle shall mean any motor vehicle having a seat or saddle for the use of the rider and designed to travel on not more than three wheels in contact with the ground, and shall include autocycles, but exclude motor-driven cycles, golf carts, track driven vehicles, tractors and electric personal assistive mobility devices.

Autocycle means a three-wheeled motorcycle in which the occupants sit with their legs forward; is designed to be controlled with a steering wheel and pedals; and is equipped with safety belts for all occupants.

A fully enclosed autocycle means an autocycle equipped with a windshield and that has full top and side enclosures capable of supporting the vehicle’s weight and protecting the occupants when the vehicle is resting on the enclosures.

Operators of autocycles shall be exempt from the requirements to obtain a motorcycle learner’s permit or a motorcycle endorsement.

Inspection Mechanics * * *

To inspect a school bus, a certified inspection mechanic shall not be required to have a commercial driver license if he or she: uses approved automated brake testing equipment in lieu of an inspection road test; or only operates the school bus at a safe location that is not a highway as defined in 19 V.S.A. § 1(12) as necessary to conduct an inspection road test.

These laws take effect on July 1, 2014. If you want to look at Act No. 189, you may view it on the Legislative website: <http://www.leg.state.vt.us/DOCS/2014/ACTS/ACT189.PDF>

If you have questions on the laws, you may contact your District Motor Vehicle Investigator, or call the Inspection Unit at 828-2094, or email Kathy.Codling@state.vt.us.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert D. Ide". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "R" and a stylized "I".

Robert D. Ide
Commissioner